

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

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R 261540Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9207

USIA WASHDC

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

USMISSION NATO

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL TRIESTE

AMCONSUL ZAGREB UNN

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

UNCLAS BELGRADE 2037

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFORN, OGEN, YO, US

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT: YUGOSLAV-ITALIAN BORDER DISPUTE
AND NATO MANEUVERS

1. SUMMARY: VOLUME AND SHARPNESS MEDIA COVERAGE PEAKED APRIL 24 AFTER SPEECHES OPENING DAY 7TH SERBIAN CP CONGRESS, TAPERING OFF LATER IN WEEK. COVERAGE CHARACTERIZED BY APPARENT TREND TO GENERAL CHARGES "IMPERIALIST PRESSURES" AGAINST NON-ALIGNMENT, SOMETIMES TYING SUBJECT TO CSCE, ALL MEDIA CONTINUE WITH STORIES MANY PUBLIC PROTESTS, TELEGRAMS AND RALLIES AGAINST IRREDENTISM. DISPUTE PLAYED IN SUBORDINATE POSITION TO OTHER CONGRESS NEWS. END SUMMARY.

2. ALL MEDIA APRIL 24 COVERED SERBIAN PARTY SECRETARY TIHOMIR VLASKALIC'S GENERAL PARTY-OPENING SPEECH INCLUDING CHARGES:
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"JOINT MANEUVERS ITALIAN AND U.S. FORCES NOT ONLY ATTEMPT EXERT

PRESSURE ON SOVEREIGN, INDEPENDENT AND NON-ALIGNED YUGOSLAVIA...
(BUT AN) ATTEMPT TO INVOLVE INTEREST OF INTERNATIONAL REACTION
IN PROVOCATIONS AGAINST OUR COUNTRY." SPEECH CARRIED ALMOST IN
FULL ON TV AND EXTENSIVELY IN POLITIKA, BORBA.

3. TANJUG AND POLITIKA (PAGE 6) BOTH PRINTED LONG STORY APRIL 24
ON PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL MEMBER DOBRIVOJE VIDIC IN CONGRESS DEBATE,
QUOTING HIM/ "...THERE ARE MAJOR GOVERNMENT FACTORS IN THE WORLD
WHICH...DO NOT WANT TO RECONCILE WITH NON-ALIGNMENT" AND THAT
"PRESSURE...BY WAY OF NATO MANEUVERS INDICATES WE ARE RIGHT IN
EMPHASIZING IN CONNECTION WITH THE WORKING OUT OF DOCUMENTS
FOR THE EUROPEAN SECURITY CONFERENCE THAT METHODS UNACCEPTABLE
TO CONTEMPORARY WORLD HAVE NOT BEEN ABANDONED YET IN INTER-
NATIONAL AFFAIRS." VIDIC ALSO CRITICIZED "MALICIOUS WRITING" IN
WESTERN PRESS, BUT DID NOT MENTION U.S.

4. SKOPJE TV CARRIED INTERVIEW WITH CROATIAN LOC OFFICIAL JOSIP
VRHOVEC IN WHICH HE QUOTED BY TANJUG APRIL 24 AS SAYING "GROWING
PRESSURES" ARE FROM "OUTSIDE FORCES DISTURBED BY YUGOSLAVIA'S
SOCIALIST SELF-MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND ITS NON-ALIGNMENT" CITING
PRESSURES AS STEEMING NOT ONLY FROM ITALY AND U.S. BUT FROM ALL
NATO COUNTRIES, AND DIRECTLY AIMED, IN PART, AT "JEOPARDIZING
EUROPEAN SYSTEM OF SECURITY AND COOPERATION." BORBA USED EXCERPTS
PAGE 2 APRIL 24, BUT INTERVIEW APPARENTLY NOT WIDELY COVERED OTHER
MEDIA.

5. COVERAGE RALLIES AND TELEGRAMS PROTESTING "IRREDENTISM" AND
OFTEN CIRITCIZING "SUPPORT FOR (ITALY) BY CIRCLES IN SOME WESTERN
COUNTRIES" STILL COMMON BUT APERING OFF AT END OF WEEK.

6. APRIL 26 MEDIA CONTENT ON SUBJECT MOSTLY CONFIEND TO STATE-
MENT ISSUED AT END OF CONGRESS AND COVERED ALL MAJOR MEDIA, BUT
NOT PLAYED HIGH, CONDEMNING ITALY AND AGAIN CALLING ATTENTION TO
PRESSURES BY "IMPERIALIST AND OTHER REACTIONARY FORCES." U.S.
AND NATO NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED.
TOON

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